

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-19 MC-02 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 AF-10 ARA-16

EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /205 W

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R 191546Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8591

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

UNCLAS PARIS 10016

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, FR, XF

SUBJECT: FRENCH ARMS SALES TO MIDDLE EAST

1. LE MONDE DATED APRIL 24 CARRIES AN ARTICLE BY USUALLY WELL-INFORMED JACQUES ISNARD INDICATING FRANCE IS PROCEEDING WITH DELIVERIES TO MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES OF 750 MILLION FRANCS OF SOPHISTICATED ARMS ORDERED BEFORE PRESIDENT POMPIDOU'S DEATH. ALL CONTRACTS REPORTEDLY CARRY A CLAUSE FORBIDDING TRANSFER OF THE ARMS TO THIRD COUNTRIES WITHOUT PRIOR FRENCH APPROVAL.

2. ACCORDING TO ISNARD, SALES INCLUDE HARPON SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILES, ALOUETTE HELICOPTERS, ARMOR-PIERCING SHELLS AND ROCKETS, NIGHT-FIGHTING LASER AND INFRA-RED EQUIPMENT AND MORTARS. PURCHASERS UNCLASSIFIED

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INCLUDE IRAQ, SAUDI ARABIA, LIBYA, KUWAIT, ABU DHABI,

QATAR AND LEBANON. THE ARTICLE INDICATES MORE THAN 8,000 HARPOON OR SIMILAR SS-11 MISSILES FOR USE ON LIGHT ARMORED VEHICLES AND HELICOPTERS, SOME WITH INFRA-RED GUIDANCE SYSTEMS, WERE SOLD TO IRAQ, SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT AND ABU DHABI. IRAQ, THE PAPER SAID, ALSO ORDERED 40 HELICOPTERS EQUIPPED WITH 20 MM. CANNONS, LASER NIGHT-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT FOR L50 ARMORED CARS, 110,000 ARMOR-PIERCING SHELLS, 1,000 MORTARS AND 550,000 MORTAR SHELLS.

3. LIBYA REPORTEDLY WILL RECEIVE SEVENTY 120 MM. MORTARS WITH A TEN-MILE RANGE AND 60,000 SHELLS. LEBANON ORDERED LIGHT ANTI-TANK WEAPONS AND IS NEGOTIATING FOR ANTI-TANK MINES, THE ARTICLE SAID, AND QATAR IS SLATED TO RECEIVE INFRA-RED EQUIPPED GUN TURRETS FOR THE BRAZILIAN-DESIGNED CASCABEL ARMORED CAR UNDER A TRIANGULAR ACCORD WITH FRANCE AND BRAZIL.

4. ARTICLE BEING POUCHED EUR/WE, NEA/RA AND OTHER ADDRESSES.

IRWIN

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NNN

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